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cific coast, are almost black in color, a feature which may certainly be regarded as protective if bright colors best invite the observation of enemies.

On the whole, the conclusion seems justified that many spiders that appear to be more exposed to enemies by reason of bright colors or greater size, have developed, or at least possess, special variations in industry and habits that in some degree are protective. But there are a number of apparent exceptions which require more careful study before any general deduction can be warranted.

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MAY 22.

Mr. J. H. REDFIELD, in the chair.

Twenty-one persons present.

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MAY 29.

Mr. J. H. REDFIELD, in the chair.

Eleven persons present.

The following papers were presented for publication :

"Description of a new species of *Etheostoma* (*E. longimana*)."

By David Starr Jordan.

"On the generic name of the Tunny." By David Starr Jordan.

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JUNE 5.

Mr. THOMAS MEEHAN, Vice-President, in the chair.

Twenty-four persons present.

*On an Insect-Larva Habitation.*—A communication was read from Miss Adele M. Fielde stating that during June of last year there were found near her house at Swatow, China, two specimens of an insect larva-habitation, of a sort that she had not seen there before, during a residence of a dozen years. The one was attached to an exotic oak-leaved geranium, the other was crawling upon a path under a *Pinus sinensis*. The first, some days later, gave issue to a small brown moth. She opened the second and found the occupant to be three-fourths of an inch in length, and black, with white specks on the head and thorax. It had three pairs of short legs, ten abdominal segments, and biting mouth-parts. Its house was built from small dry stalks of plants, cut evenly and laid side by side in a spiral of expanding whorls, the larger coils overlapping the smaller at the lower edge, showing the lower ends of the straws. The colors

varied from pale green to dark brown, and were laid in such a way as to indicate that one straw had been used up before another was sought for the building. There were a hundred and twenty pieces in the structure, the lower small end being open as well as the upper. The house was lined with a brown silk cocoon, upon which the straws were very tightly and evenly cemented.

Hoping to see the method in which the creature worked, she removed from the upper portion of the truncate inverted cone, half a whorl of its straws, put the larva back, closed its house, put it under a wire screen, on a plate of tender rose leaves, and stuck through the screen several dry, small stalks of grass. The active and shy larva would never emerge from its domicile when she was looking at it, but she managed to surprise it at its work so many times as to make sure of its method. The holes made in the rose leaves indicated that they furnished food for the worker. The dry straw was drawn into such a position that its end could be laid upon the house, and cemented, with silken lining, into its place at the upper, enlarging end of the spiral layers. When laid and fastened, the lower end being exactly in line with previously laid stalks, the upper end was made by biting off the straw in the line of the upper edge of the structure. Thirteen new straws were thus laid on to replace what she had violently removed, and, after two weeks of active life under the wire screen, the larva closed the upper aperture (its front door and place of egress) by fastening it with a veil of silk, to the top of the screen, from which it hung suspended. She did not perceive that it had ever voluntarily departed from its house, though its head and thorax often projected beyond its front door. By the small lower aperture refuse was cast out. This specimen died without having reached its metamorphosis.

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JUNE 12.

Rev. HENRY C. MCCOOK, D. D., Vice-President, in the chair.

Fifteen persons present.

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JUNE 19.

Mr. CHARLES MORRIS, in the chair.

Thirteen persons present.

The following papers were presented for publication:—

“Observations on the Female Generative Apparatus of *Hyæna crocuta*.” By Henry C. Chapman M. D.

“A new Fossil Spider, *Eoatypus Woodwardii*.” By Rev. Henry C. McCook, D. D.